(Free-to-Air DTH) transmission service 'DD Direct Plus' was approved with a capital cost of Rs. 53.80 crore (Works - Rs 2.80 cr, Equipment -Rs. 51.00 cr.) Out of which till now Rs. 19.26 crore have been incurred on this project. Its bouquet comprising thirty-three TV and twelve Radio channels has been made fully operational since its launch on 16th Dec. 2004 with the existing trained manpower.

(b) and (c) Standing Committee on Information Technology (2004-05), in its 18th report on Demands for Grants (2005-06), had observed that 14 Doordarshan projects were not being put to use on account of shortage of manpower. Out of these 14 projects (5 Studios and 9 LPTs), 11 projects (3 Studios and 8 LPTs) have since been commissioned by deployment of limited staff drawn from other Doordarshan Kendras

Broadcasting of programmes by FM stations

2202. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analysed the programmes broadcast by FM stations in the country;

(b) if so, whether they conform to the mandate given to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that these stations are not permitted to broadcast local or regional bulletins; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) All India Radio broadcasts news and current affairs programmes on its FM Channels, Private FM Stations, as per Phase-I and Phase-ll policy guidelines, are not permitted to broadcast News and Current Affairs programmes"

Insurance scheme for journalists

2203. SHRIMATIVANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide insurance scheme for journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The proposal is under examination.

Law for common age for marriage of girls and boys

2204. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: WilI the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken the final decision regarding common age for marriage for boys and girls;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the existing law for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the salient features of the proposed amendments?

THE MINISTER OF LAWAND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Supreme Court's criticism of States not setting up Fast Track Courts

2205. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has recently criticised the States which have defaulted in setting up the requisite number of Fast Track Courts despite procuring full Central grant for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these States are likely to set up Fast Track Courts.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE !N THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) In the case of Brij Mohan Lal *vs.* Uol and others, the Supreme Court in its order dated 29th April, 2004 and 29th July, 2005 observed that many State Governments did not file their replies despite Apex Court's direction about setting up of Fast Track Courts.